

# ***FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE TURKEY REGIONAL NEWS***

**April 2005**

**Foreign Agricultural Service  
United States Department of Agriculture**

**With offices in Ankara and Istanbul, Turkey;  
Almaty, Kazakhstan and Tashkent, Uzbekistan**

**Covering Turkey, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan**

## **High-Level Biotechnology Delegation Visits United States**

During April 1 through 9, USDA hosted a delegation comprised of Turkish Parliamentarians, Ministry of Agriculture Officials, and industry and university representatives that visited the United States to learn more about how agriculture biotechnology is used and regulated in the United States. The Delegation included Prof. Dr. Vahit Kirisci, Member of Parliament and Chair of the Agriculture Committee, Prof. Dr. Necdet Budak, Member of Parliament and Agriculture Committee Member, Dr. Vehbi Eser, Head of Department, General Directorate of Research and Development, MARA, Prof. Dr. Nevzat Artik, Assistant General Manager, Food Department, General Directorate of Protection and Control, MARA, Mr. Ulku Karakus, Chairman of the Turkish Feed Manufacturer's Association and Prof. Dr. Selim Cetiner of Sabanci University. Agriculture Attache Robert Hanson and Agriculture Specialist Ibrahim Sirtioglu accompanied the group.

The Delegation visited U.S. regulators, Dept. of Agriculture Officials, corn, soy and cotton producer associations, industry representatives and farmers in Washington D.C. and St. Louis Missouri. In Washington D.C., the group visited the three agencies that regulate biotechnology in the United States; the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS/USDA), the Food and Drug Association (FDA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). These three agencies regulate the development of agricultural biotechnology products, their introduction into the market and environment, as well as all aspects of their food safety. Information on U.S. regulations, including public access to all applications and approved products can be viewed from the joint website at: <http://usbiotechreg.nbii.gov/>

In Washington D.C. the delegation also visited staff advisors from the Senate Finance Committee on Capital Hill, various USDA representatives and representatives from the Corn and Cotton producers associations. Officials described the U.S. commodity handling system, the benefits of agriculture biotechnology from environmental and farmer perspectives and the fundamental reasons why agriculture biotechnology is growing so quickly around the world.

In St. Louis, MO, the delegation toured Monsanto's research facilities and headquarters. Monsanto is one of the leading agriculture biotechnology developers in the world. The delegation observed the research and development of products as well as testing procedures for food and environmental safety before they are released into the market and environment. Monsanto also discussed the possibilities of the next generation of agricultural biotechnology products, which will have the potential to provide consumers specific nutritional benefits, as well as to improve yields through the development of drought-resistant varieties. In St. Louis the group also met with farmers to learn about their perspectives, including whether or not to plant biotech products.

In summary, the delegation believed the trip was very successful. The group hopes to use the knowledge gathered to help promote a better understanding of agriculture biotechnology in Turkey – and as a basis from which to continue to develop sound biotechnology regulations in Turkey.

### **First Ever California Virtual Wine Tasting Hits Ankara and Istanbul!!!**



On April 18, wine importers, gathered for a virtual wine tasting event at the U.S. Embassy in Ankara and the U.S. Consulate General in Istanbul. Paterno, Oak Ridge and Wine Team wineries presented their exclusive wines virtually from California. Representatives from major hotels, restaurants and wine importers attended the event. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Pinot Noir and Chardonnay were among varieties tasted. Blue Diamond and Derco Almonds from California were also presented at the events.

### **For More Information on FAS' Services Please Visit...**

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/buying.html>

...for a complete summary of all FAS marketing services which includes links to Suppliers Lists and a Distributor's Directory of suppliers who supply mixed containers of grocery and high-value food items.

### **GSM News...**

There are still GSM lines available, which are allocated by commodity. To view a table of the approximate allocations remaining, please visit:

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/excredits>

Click on 'Summary of Export Credit Program Activity', 'Current Report'.

Please note that registrations are accepted daily and availability of commodity lines is subject to change.

### **Attaché Reporting News**

Recent agriculture reports submitted by the Ankara office include the Dried Fruit Annual (TU 5014), Oil Seeds and Products (TU 5015), Stone Fruit Annual (TU 5013) and Sugar Annual (TU 5012). Upcoming reports will include Tobacco and Products report, Cotton and Products Annual report and Tomatoes and Products Annual report. These reports, all previous reports, and similar reports for countries around the world can be found by clicking on "Attache Reports" from the main website at [www.fas.usda.gov](http://www.fas.usda.gov)

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